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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.		
10/717,680	11/20/2003	Lewis R. Norman	2003-IP-009800U1	8569		
7590	03/18/2008	Robert A. Kent Halliburton Energy Services 2600 S. 2nd Street Duncan, OK 73536	EXAMINER WHITE, EVERETT NMN			
ART UNIT 1623		PAPER NUMBER				
MAIL DATE 03/18/2008		DELIVERY MODE PAPER				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/717,680	NORMAN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	EVERETT WHITE	1623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 November 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-7,33 and 34 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 33 and 34 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed November 21, 2007 has been received, entered and carefully considered. The amendment affects the instant application accordingly:
 - (A) Claims 8-32 have been canceled;
 - (B) Comments regarding the Office Action have been provided drawn to:
 - (I) 103(a) rejection, which has been maintained in regard to Claims 1-7 for the reasons of record.
2. Claims 1-7, 33 and 34 are pending in the case.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Phillips et al (US Patent No. 5,002,125) for the reasons disclosed on pages 3-5 of the Office Action filed December 15, 2006.
4. Applicant's arguments filed April 13, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants argue against the rejection on the ground that the Phillips et al patent does not disclose the step of "derivatizing a polysaccharide with a metal coordinating group to produce a derivatized polysaccharide having bidentate ligands," as recited in instant Claim 1. Applicants argument is not persuasive since the crosslinking procedure disclosed in the Phillips et al patent embraces the derivatizing step of the instant Claim 1. The term "metal coordinating group" recited in step (b) is too broad and does not distinguish from the titanium acetylactonate reacted with the hydroxypropyl guar in the Phillips et al patent, even-though this reaction is described in the Phillips et al patent as a crosslinking procedure. Both the instant claims and the Phillips et al patent recite a method of crosslinking a polysaccharide and the process steps and description of the reactants recited in the instant claims is insufficient to distinguish said process steps and reactants from those recited in the Phillips et al patent. Accordingly, the rejection of Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Phillips et al patent is maintained for the reasons of record.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 33 and 34 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Summary

6. Claims 1-7 are rejected; Claims 33 and 34 are objected to.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Examiner's Telephone Number, Fax Number, and Other Information

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Everett White whose telephone number is 571-272-0660. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Shaojia A. Jiang can be reached on 571-272-0627. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1623

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

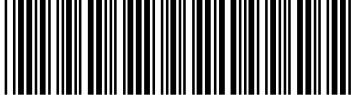
/Everett White/

Examiner

Art Unit 1623

/Shaojia Anna Jiang, Ph.D./

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1623

Application Number 	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent under Reexamination
	10/717,680	NORMAN ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
EVERETT WHITE	1623	